

# Ames Historical Society

AMES • IOWA

## Newsletter to Members 2019 WINTER...ISSUE #1 / 4

*Discovering our history,  
Preserving our past,  
Sharing our stories.*



The "H" Tree was near Skunk River north of Ames. It died and was removed in the 1980s.

### Ames Historical Society Board:

**Co-President** Sharon Wirth  
**Co-President** Peter Hallock  
**Secretary** Lynette Spicer  
**Treasurer** Ken Cameron

Don Beitz, Bob Bourne, Wayne Clinton, Dan Franklin, Eric Hoiberg, Becky Jordan, Mary Logsdon, Bonnie Norman, Jim Popken, Ryan Riley.

*The Board meets the 2nd Thursday of each month 7pm at 416 Douglas. Members welcome!*

### Staff:

**Executive Director** Casie Vance  
**Research & Exhibits Manager** Alex Fejfar  
**Collections Manager** Carly Hlubek  
**Emeritus Staff:**  
Alan Spohnheimer, Margaret Vance, Dennis Wendell

Ames Historical Society is an incorporated, 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization whose mission is to engage our diverse public and provide unique opportunities to learn about Ames history.

**Headquarters:** 416 Douglas, Ames, IA 50010  
**Hours** Tue. – Sat. 10 am - 4 pm  
**Mail:** PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010  
**Phone:** 515-232-2148  
**E-mail:** [info@ameshistory.org](mailto:info@ameshistory.org)  
**Website:** [www.AmesHistory.org](http://www.AmesHistory.org)  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/ameshistoricalsociety](http://www.facebook.com/ameshistoricalsociety)

The **newsletter** is published four times a year for AHS members. Direct comments and questions to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010 or e-mail above. Editor: Kathy Svec

**Hoggatt School** is located on the grounds of Meeker School near 18<sup>th</sup> and Burnett, Ames, Iowa. Closed November to March; by appointment April to October. Open Sun., June-Aug.

## Annual Meeting & Lecture Double-Header Please Join us!

The 2019 Annual Meeting of the membership will be teamed up with the first lecture in our 2019 series. Please plan to join us for an overview of 2018 activities, the required vote approving new Board members and socializing over refreshments – then stay for the lecture!

Here's the schedule for events on March 26, which will take place at the Ames Public Library auditorium, 515 Douglas:

6:30-6:45 pm	Annual meeting
6:45-7 pm	Treats & socializing
7 pm	Lecture begins:
	<i>John &amp; Rowena Stevens, Early Progressives in Ames</i>



At the History Center, the current exhibit continues, ***Exploring Historic Ames: Unique Selections from the Farwell T. Brown Photographic Archive***. It puts a spotlight on Brown's legacy - this great historical resource that is available online to anyone interested in early Ames history. On view through Sat., August 3.

The 50 featured photos were collected by Farwell Brown, Ames historian and the Society's founder, and were chosen based on their ability to view current-day Ames through a historical lens. Among the selections that are grouped by theme, visitors will see noteworthy fires, swimming holes, train wrecks, stereo-scope images by Martin Morrison and a life-sized replica of the famous H-tree.

Brown accrued his photo collection over several decades from many sources - his own pioneer family's collection, contributions by various individuals, Iowa State University Special Collections and the Iowa Department of Transportation.

The exhibit is presented in partnership with the Ames Public Library, which hosts the full photo collection on its website - [amespubliclibrary.org](http://amespubliclibrary.org) > Learn and Explore > Local History.

Please note that the Library has recently had the website pages that feature the Brown Archive redone. The new arrangement features multiple ways to access the collection. There are broad categories such as "businesses" and "people" or the ability to sort by decade or an alphabetical listing of subjects. As with any newly re-arranged website, there may be occasional problems. Please let us know if you do not find what you are looking for so that these things can be corrected. The Society stores and has digitized the entire archive and can assist researchers.

*The History Center is at 416 Douglas, downtown Ames. Open Tues. – Sat. 10 am-4 pm.*

## 2019 Lecture Series

Presented in partnership with Ames Public Library, Library Friends Foundation and the Senior Variety Show. All lectures are at Ames Public Library's Farwell Brown Auditorium, 515 Douglas. Free & open to the public. Assisted hearing device available on request.

**Tuesday, March 26, 7 pm**



### **John and Rowena Stevens: Progressives in Early Ames**

**By Peter Hallock**, Society Co-President

John Stevens and Rowena Edson came to Ames as students at the Iowa Agricultural College. He was in the first graduating class (1872), she was in the second. After graduating, both left to start their careers, then came back, married and provided leadership in the community for two decades. He is remembered as an attorney and judge; she is remembered for her work on voting rights for women, but both were more broadly involved and influential. Hallock will explore the larger story of this early Ames "power couple."

**Wednesday, April 24, 7 pm**



### **Cheers to 50 Years! Stephens Auditorium Marks a Milestone**

**By Tammy Koolbeck**, Executive Director, Iowa State Center

"It's a hell of a hall for a cow college," an Iowan commented as he entered the new C.Y. Stephens Auditorium to hear the New York Philharmonic on opening night. Since its debut in 1969 on a former cornfield, the Auditorium has hosted performances as diverse as pop music, classical symphonies, ballet and wrestling meets! Hear known and not-so-well-known behind-the-scenes stories about this remarkable building as it marks its first 50 years.

**Wednesday, May 15, 7 pm**



### **The Civilian Conservation Corps in Iowa**

**By Linda McCann**, author and historical researcher

The CCC was a federal program that assisted young men in supporting their families during the Depression years - 1933 to 1942. Most Iowans know about the State Park work done in Iowa, but there was so much more, including projects in Ames. Linda has spoken with 21 men who were in the CCC and shared their experiences and memories. Linda has written many books on Iowa history which will be available for sale.

**BONUS LECTURE: Thursday, May 23, 7 pm**



### **History of American Popular Music**

**By Michael Lasser**, lecturer, writer, broadcaster, critic, teacher and host of the nationally syndicated public radio show, *Fascinatin' Rhythm*.

Lasser will present American popular music as social history and will include the works of such songwriters as the Gershwins, Cole Porter and Irving Berlin between 1920 and 1950 and the role songs about the Midwest played in popular music and social attitudes of the time.

**Wednesday, June 26, 7 pm**



### **From Fair View to Parkview: the Battle to Save the Morris Farm from Involuntary Annexation**

**By Edie Hunter**, History graduate student, Iowa State University

As the population of Ames exploded in the post-WWII period, the city struggled to meet the demand for new housing. Capital, supplies, and labor were readily available - all the city needed was land on which to build. But when faced with the threat of involuntary annexation, Edward and Neva Morris resisted and the battle was on to save their beloved farm.

## Exhibits & More Upcoming Events

### Current Hallway Exhibits

#### ***Fly With Banning***

James Herman Banning was the first African American pilot to fly across the United States. He learned to fly while living in Ames.

#### ***Artifacts from the Attic: Alexander Plow Company***

This early company made garden implements and other similar tools.

#### ***Ames Bottlers***

This exhibit provides information about two bottling companies in Ames.

#### ***Younkers Little Shop***

The Ames store on Main Street, known as "Younkers Little Shop," was the first branch store, opening in 1941.

### Special Lobby Exhibit

In honor of 2018's 100th anniversary of Armistice Day and the end of World War I, a greatly enlarged panorama of the Ames parade for returning soldiers is on view in the History Center's hallway.

### University Museums Lectures

The Society is partnering with University Museums to make our members aware of their "Living With Art" program series. All are at 7pm in the Ames Public Library auditorium. Free, open to the public.

Thursday, April 11:

**Cultural Beads** by Adrienne Gennett

Tuesday, May 14:

**Best Intentions: Care of Collections**  
by Allison Sheridan & Jerome Thompson

Tuesday, June 11:

**Magical Material:**

**Glass Sculpture of Dale Chihuly**

by Allison Sheridan & Adrienne Gennett

Tuesday, July 9:

**Museums Around the World:**

**From Ames to Australia**

by Allison Sheridan and Rae Reilly

### Your Historians

Iowa State's History Department faculty are presenting their "Your Historians" lectures on a range of historical subjects at the Ames Public Library auditorium. Free, open to the public.

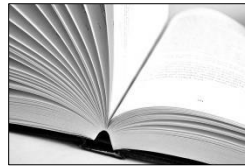
Monday, April 22, 7 pm:

**Religion, Class, & Ethnicity in Guatemala**

Monday, May 6, 7 pm:

**1980s Farm Crisis in Three Documents**

### Book Repair Workshop, April 13



The Society is offering this unique workshop opportunity taught by Eduardo Garcia of Ames.

Participants will evaluate the different types of book damage

from samples provided by the instructor and learn about the most common restoration techniques to complete the reconditioning of the book samples. Attendees may come with one book that is in need of repair.

**Sat., April 13, 9 am-noon** at the History Center

**Fee:** \$20; advanced registration required by April 11.

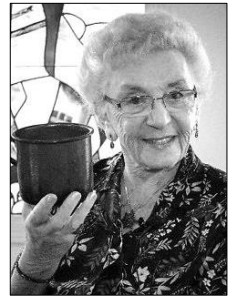
**Sign up** by calling 515-232-2148 or emailing [info@ameshistory.org](mailto:info@ameshistory.org) or stopping at 416 Douglas.

**Limited capacity:** sign up soon!

**Supplies:** some supplies provided; ask for list of supplies that attendees must bring.

### 'A Second Chance at Life' Lecture

The Society is partnering with the Iowa Jewish Historical Society to present Celina Karp Biniarz, one of the last living survivors of Schindler's List. Schindler was a German industrialist who saved 1,098 Jews from the Nazi holocaust. She will share her story of survival from living a middle-class childhood to being forced into a Jewish ghetto and later the infamous Auschwitz death camp. Celina's family worked in Schindler's factory until they were liberated in May 1945.



Sunday, March 31, 7 pm in the Great Hall at ISU's Memorial Union. Free, open to the public.



Volunteer members of the ISU leadership class worked at the History Center on various projects: archives finding aids, building plan inventory and pamphlet file organization. They also did a final class project about the Society, exploring starting an intern program.

## Society News

### Most Grateful!

The Society was very pleased to receive several grants and donations to support exhibits, programs and operations. These funds truly allow the staff to flex their creativity and provide our audiences with top-notch experiences! We are most grateful.

The **Greater Iowa Credit Union** has provided \$1,000 for activities at Hoggatt School this summer.

Through their Community Grant Program, the Society received \$1,850 from the **Ames Convention & Visitor's Bureau** to enhance the next major exhibit at the History Center. Below: Jim Baker of the ACVB, Society staff Alex Feifar, Casie Vance, Carly Hlubek.



The **Senior Variety Show**, an annual showcase of area talent among those over age 55, raises funds that are distributed to local non-profits. Their \$500 gift will help us promote our annual Lecture Series more broadly.

**Mary Lokken** and her daughter, **Mary June Cain**, have responded to our ongoing need for collection storage by providing 500 sq. ft. in their family-owned storage units at a greatly discounted price. This allowed the staff to

consolidate and organize items that do not require temperature controls. They also appreciate



the closer proximity to the main office. Special thanks to all those who helped with the move: Ken Cameron, Bob Bourne, Eric Wierson, Sharon Wirth, Dan Franklin, Peter Hallock, Alex Feifar, Carly Hlubek, Casie Vance and to realtor Tom Randall for use of his Community Truck.

The Society has received a check from **Amazon Smile**, the charitable effort that contributes a portion of Amazon's sales to designated non-profits. Although the check was small, we hope future ones will be larger as members get used to selecting this service when they shop on Amazon.

### 2018 Volunteer stats

Speaking of donations - our volunteers are second to none! Here are volunteer statistics from 2018:

- Archive Finding Aids & Organization: 314.25 hours
- Board & Committees: 482.25 hours
- Collections Inventory: Paperwork/Photos: 536 hours
- Collections Inventory: PastPerfect: 208.25 hours
- Collections Storage Move: 43.5 hours
- Data Entry & Transcribing: 203.5 hours
- Exhibits & Research: 121.25 hours
- Front Desk: 1,684 hours
- Main Street Legacy Project: 272.25 hours
- Miscellaneous: 735.75 hours
- Programs & Events: 274.25 hours
- Scanning: 568.25 hours

**TOTAL:** 89 volunteers + 5 groups = 5,443.5 hours.  
This is equivalent to 2 ½ more full-time staff!

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

**Gratefully acknowledging  
our Executive Level Business Members:**

**NORTH**  
GRAND MALL



**NORTHCREST**  
community  
*Uniquely Yours, Uniquely Home*

Grandon Funeral  
and Cremation Care

## Let Us Count the Ways

Not everyone can contribute in large ways to support the Society's efforts, but there are other ways!



### Consider these ideas:

- Give **gift memberships** to family members or friends.
- Remember a loved one with a **memorial**.
- **Increase** your membership to the next highest level.
- Set up **automatic** payments through online banking.
- **Shop** in our Museum Shop that features Ames and Iowa-related books and gifts.
- See if your employer **matches** your donations.
- **Volunteer** a few hours a month. We always need front desk hosts as well as assistance with projects.
- In addition to your membership donation, contribute to our **Endowment** Fund for a lasting impact.
- At age 70½, certain investors must take the **Required Minimum Distribution** (if they are not already doing so). This is taxable income. A contribution to the Society may lower tax liability.\*
- Donors who are 70½ and older may have the opportunity to **transfer** up to \$100,000 of IRA assets directly to public charities and receive an Endow Iowa tax credit.\*\*
- Make a gift of appreciated **securities** instead of cash and receive tax benefits.\*\*
- When creating your will or **estate** plan, include the Society as a beneficiary.

\*Check with your financial planner or tax advisor

\*\*Call Story County Community Foundation for more information, 515-232-9200

## News briefs

- When shopping on Amazon, remember to log in to Amazon's charitable giving program, Amazon Smile, ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)) to return a portion of your purchases to the Society! Log in to your account, select Ames Historical Society from the drop-down menu, then shop as usual.
- Join the 2,569 people who **"like"** us on Facebook. The historical photos that appear each week in the **Ames Tribune** are posted on our Facebook page. We enjoy the reactions and comments!
- Don't forget to take a look at and ask to be "friended" on the **"Lost Ames"** Facebook page.
- Enjoy the Lost Ames Facebook page? Take a look at **Lost Iowa**: [facebook.com/groups/forgotteniowa/](https://facebook.com/groups/forgotteniowa/)

## Staff News



The Society's Research & Exhibits Manager, **Alex Feifar** was married last October to Virginia Griesheimer. They have bought a house and settled in Ames. Virginia also works for a local non-profit. After the ceremony, they took a weeks-long drive following old Route 66 – and had a great time! Alex is our all-purpose handyman and researcher who is the creativity behind the interesting constructions that appear in our exhibits.

**Carly Hlubek**, Collections Manager, was a regular volunteer assisting with - and getting trained in - collec-



tions. After she graduated from ISU in May 2018, we hired her half-time to fill a vacancy. Starting in 2019, with improving Society finances, she was able to move to three-quarter time. She is currently pursuing an online master's in collections management from the University of Oklahoma.

## More News Briefs

- Nominations for the **History Maker Award** are being taken through March 31. The award honors an individual, company, organization or family that has had an impact on the history of the Ames. Nomination form online at [ameshistory.org](http://ameshistory.org) or email us.
- A **new page** on the Society's website is a **guide to digital resources** that can be used for research. Go to [ameshistory.org](http://ameshistory.org) > Archives & Collections > Research Tips & Sources. More and more material has been digitized and placed online – such as plat maps, newspapers and directories. This means easy access for curious people near and far!
- The Society is also posting on **Instagram** – search [ameshistoricalsociety](https://www.instagram.com/ameshistoricalsociety).
- The staff has just begun placing videos of our lectures and other local history films on **YouTube**. Uploading them is a lengthy process, but more and more will be available as time goes on. Search 'Ames Historical Society' to see what is already there!





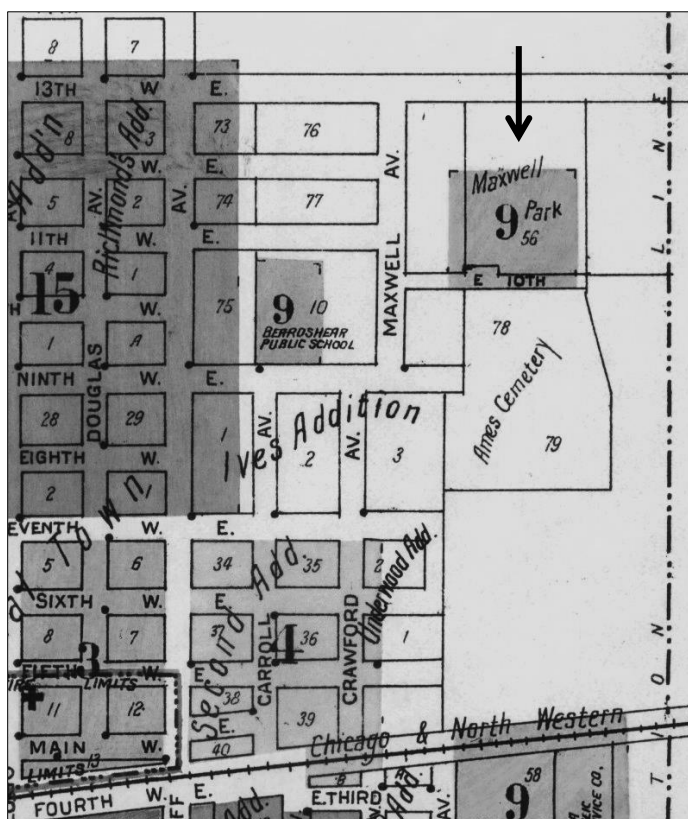
## Local Stories – Maxwell Park

### Where in the World is Maxwell Park?

By Sharon Wirth, Society president

Never heard of Maxwell Park in Ames, IA? You are not alone! However, a number of notable community events occurred there in the early 1900's.

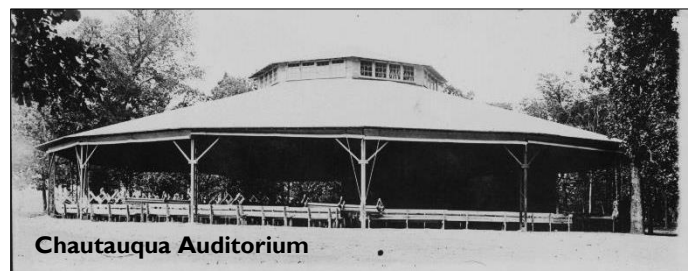
The 1920 Sanborn map (below) shows the park north of 10<sup>th</sup> St. and east of Maxwell Ave. stretching north nearly to 13<sup>th</sup> St. in east Ames. Although never an official City of Ames park, residents back then knew the area by this name and sometimes called it 'Chautauqua Park.' Today this area is a part of the Ames Municipal Cemetery.



Chautauqua was a family-oriented, week-long summer cultural event. Beginning in 1908, the Chautauqua moved from the Brookside/Ridgewood area to Maxwell Park and was held there until 1926. On August 17, 1911, a record crowd of 4,000 gathered to hear Ames native, baseball-player-turned-evangelist, Billy Sunday.

The large tent put up for the event did not offer much protection from summer storms, so an auditorium was built in 1912, funded by Wallace Greeley. In 1926, after the final Chautauqua, the auditorium was moved to the high school athletic grounds near Lincoln Way and Grand Avenue to become the Ames High Field House.

The field house was demolished in 1965 to make room for commercial development.



The Central Iowa Fair had its home in Maxwell Park from 1912-1923. It was first held in Ames after 1910 when the county fair was no longer held in Nevada. By 1913, the fair was a 3 or 4 day long annual event held in September or October. Schools were closed for one full day during the fair which hosted thousands of people from all over Iowa and beyond. It included exhibitions, livestock, entertainment, displays and other attractions. The oldest Story County resident attending the fair was awarded a gold medal. Highlights in 1916 included barbecued buffalo and mule cart races. At the right is a 1922 advertisement for the fair.

**CENTRAL IOWA FAIR**

**Maxwell Park, Ames, Ia.**  
**August 21-23-4**

Three big days and large nights of glorious fun,  
entertainment and education. *Admission Free*

**T. FRED HENRY**  
Will give concerts and play during intermissions

**RACES**

The Fair Association has been fortunate to engage an attraction of STATE FAIR size. They will be here during the Fair and ten proceed to Des Moines. They are also booked for the Minnesota State Fair and the Dakota State Fair. The features are the ever thrilling Horse Races, Standing Races, Cattle Races, Races, Riderless horse against Automobile.

**PAGEANTS**

Parades and pageants presented in the afternoon and evening. Monday night, shows and attractions in the auditorium. Tuesday afternoon, North Grant School in a pageant. Both afternoon and evening. Wednesday afternoon, the Story County College will present several pageants. Thursday, the Story City school will present a series of life dramas. Wednesday evening a play, "Fanny Hill," by the Cambridge Consolidated School. The most dramatic of the Ames Women's Club will present several musical features. There will be pageants by two or three other schools, but the details have not been fully completed.

**SHAM BATTLE**

Thursday, a sham battle, showing early days, creating the photo, recorded by Indians, showing the camp, arching men, burning them at the stake, and the final scene by American soldiers.

**Bring the Family**  
Something Doing All the Time!

Get your Exhibits in on time.  
Entries close Saturday, August 19th at 10 P. M.

W. T. BARR, Pres.      E. H. GRAVES, Sec.

Maxwell Park was the site of a large Ku Klux Klan Klonklave (rally) in 1924. An estimated 8,000 people attended the Klan's parade on September 4. An account in the Ames Daily Tribune and Evening Times (9/4/1924) says, "all members of the police force were called into action for traffic duty."

About 300 to 400 Klansmen and Klanswomen paraded wearing robes but no masks. Later forty new members were initiated into the organization with Rev. W. J. Saunders of Ohio delivering the "Principles of the Klan."



Attendees were given “a chance to join this American organization. Klan stands for good government and a clean country,” according to the newspaper account. The burning of two crosses was followed by fireworks as the event closed.

These were the events of the time although today we are

deeply disturbed to think that this could have been hosted in the Ames community. History remembered helps us avoid repeating such actions as we strive to create a strong and inclusive community.



## 131 Main Update

Since the article in the last newsletter, Avec Design has moved into 131 Main. Work continues on the



exterior north wall and interior second floor spaces. If you go by, you will see the recently installed

aluminum canopy. It runs from the east edge of the building around the Douglas corner to the end near the alley. The canopy's design reflects the one that was part of the 1953 remodeling. This restored building is a wonderful contribution to the Main Street National Register Historic District!

## Society Wish List

Our **grateful thanks** go to Kathy Svec for funding a Polk Directory.

### Continued wishes:

- Donations to purchase more **Polk Directories**. We are missing 2009 and 2011-2017. They cost \$115 each or if you have these books, consider a donation! The listings are sorted three ways: alphabetically, by address and by phone number – very handy for researchers.
- Ames **photos** from 1960s (largely missing from Ames Tribune archive).
- Ongoing **subscription** to NewspaperArchive.com (6 months - \$99.95).
- Funds for **archival boxes** (approximately \$13 each), containers we endlessly need.
- Office and building **supplies**: computer printer paper, trash bags, glass cleaner, tissues, etc.

Let us know if you can help by calling 515-232-2148 or emailing [info@ameshistory.org](mailto:info@ameshistory.org).



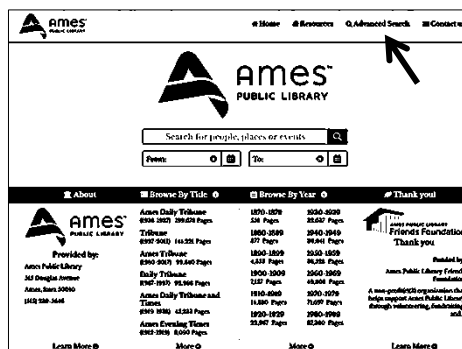
## Society News

### Tips on the Digital Tribune

Ames Tribune newspapers, 1877 to 2016, are now online. Go to [ameshistory.org](http://ameshistory.org) > Archives & Collections > Research Tips & Sources and click on 'Ames Tribune newspaper.' An incredible boon to researchers all over the world, this free service is provided by the Ames Public Library and was funded by Library's Friends Foundation. Searches can be filtered by date and by

keywords.

Folks who have used this online archive mention that it is easier to find entries by going right away to “Advanced Search.”



### Main Street Legacy Project



The goal of this ambitious project is to have a database of Main Street businesses throughout all of Ames history. Volunteers searched city directories from 1940 to 2010, recording addresses of each listed Main Street business. Now, others are searching newspaper ads for businesses prior to 1940. Phone books have been scanned to be digitally searchable and those will help researchers to fill in gaps. Another volunteer is condensing the data into a master list of businesses and the years they were listed in the various sources. The project is ongoing but much has been accomplished. We often get questions about building histories and this project will help with answers.

### Update on HRDP Grant

The collections-related project that was proposed 1½ years ago and funded through Iowa's Historic Resource Development Program (HRDP) is poised to meet the November deadline. By January's end about 1,400 objects had been cataloged for a goal of 2,000. Currently, eight volunteers are working on three main aspects: filling out object paperwork, photographing and packing boxes and entering object information into the database, PastPerfect. In November we will publish this information online so the public can view part of our collection.

Ames Historical Society  
PO Box 821  
Ames, Iowa 50010

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT #122  
AMES, IOWA 50010

Return Service Requested

## Museum Shop

### MEMBER BENEFIT:

15% off all shop items, all the time!



### AMES, IOWA TEE-SHIRT

Black or grey; just \$12

### NEW ORNAMENT

A porcelain ornament featuring the Dinkey is now available – a sweet memento of a memorable era in Ames history. White/black/burgundy, \$10

### GAMES, BOOKS, COFFEE, MUGS

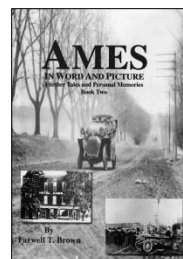
Many unique Ames-related items may be selected in our Shop, including Burgie's Onondaga Blend coffee.

Stuff for both kids and adults – stop in and take a look!

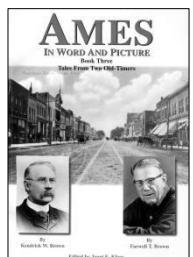
-----  
Open hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm



## Museum Shop Special!



In conjunction with the Farwell Brown Archive exhibit, two of Brown's local history books will be offered at a special price through August 3. **Select books #2 and #3, two for just \$18!**



Regularly \$20 each. Titles are, *Ames in Word and Picture: Further Tales and Personal Memories* and *Ames in Word and Picture: Tales from Two Old Timers*.

## Is it time to renew your membership?

Renewals are due on the one-year anniversary of last year's payment. Check this newsletter's label (above your name) for the date yours is due. Memberships fund the day-to-day operations of the Society, so we can continue to be a valued community resource. Now – pay online at our updated website!

<b>Introductory - 1st year</b>	<b>\$15</b>	<b>Partner</b>	<b>\$250</b>
<b>Basic</b>	<b>\$30</b>	<b>Benefactor</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>Friend</b>	<b>\$50</b>	<b>Patron</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Sustaining</b>	<b>\$100</b>		

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Ames Historical Society, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010**